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Cross Ref: 7090 file

18 April 1963

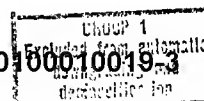
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Support
SUBJECT : CIA Computer Requirements

1. Pursuant to your request, the CIA Automatic Data Processing Committee met on 17 April, to review the request of DD/R for the acquisition of a large scale computer, specifically an IBM 7090.
2. OSA/RR personnel briefed the Committee in general terms, outlining their views as to the need for a computer of this size. The ADP Staff then reported on its investigation leading to the Staff recommendation that an IBM 7090 be selected.
3. Assuming the need for a computer of this size, the alternative which suggests itself would be to use NPIC's Univac 490. This machine has the size, it is now little used, and OSA's immediate need is a limited one (about 20 hours per week).
4. The arguments against such a course of action are, however, quite persuasive:
 - a. The immediate OSA requirement is but a fraction of its stated total requirement. Fully implemented OSA's plans alone call for capacity in excess of either the IBM 7090 or NPIC's 490.
 - b. There are a number of OSI projects now carried out on an IBM 7090 under high cost contracts. Present plans are to bring these in-house. These together with other OSI programs,

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some in support of OSA, call for considerable 7090 capacity.

c. Software available for the 7090 far outstrips comparable software available for the 490.

5. Accepting at face value the stated nature of the OSA problem and the high priority assigned to its solution, the availability of software is itself decisive in favor of an IBM 7090.

CONCLUSIONS

6. On the basis of information presented to it, the CIA ADP Committee found no grounds upon which to base an objection to the acquisition by CIA of an IBM 7090.

7. Regrettably our conclusion cannot be more definitive for lack of specific information and time for its study: no background papers or studies were available to the Committee, in part because some members did not have necessary security clearances.

8. In such circumstances the ability of the Committee to make a useful contribution to the decision process is questionable, and so therefore is its continued ex

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